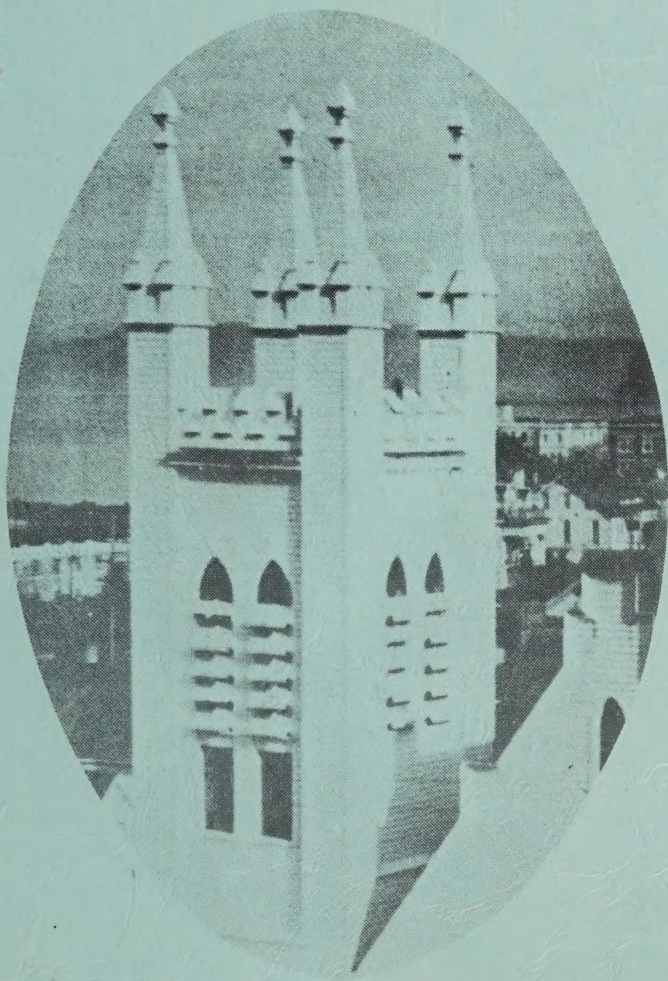


*One Hundred Years*  
*1877 1977*



*First Presbyterian Church*  
*Astoria, Oregon*

### **Prayer From Program of 50th Anniversary**

Our Father, Whose glory we have seen in the face of Christ, in whom all things must have their beginning, else in evil they shall have their end, let this Anniversary take its rise in Thy presence, and find in Thee the source of its intent and meaning. Into the mysterious adventure of another half century, where no man's foot has ever walked before, walk Thou with us. Thine eyes can see where ours are dim; Thy foot is steady where our footsteps slip, and in Thy strong companionship we shall find comfort and fortitude, peace and power.  
Amen

THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED TO THOSE  
PIONEERS WHOSE FORESIGHT, FAITH, AND  
COURAGE LED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF  
THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF  
ASTORIA, OREGON ON MAY 5, 1877

IN GRATEFUL MEMORY OF THOSE CHRISTIAN  
WORSHIPPERS WHO HAVE PERSEVERED IN THE  
ONGOING MISSION OF THIS CHURCH FOR THE  
PAST ONE HUNDRED YEARS AND TO ALL THE  
FUTURE GENERATIONS WHO WILL CARRY ON  
THIS PRESBYTERIAN MINISTRY, WE  
DEDICATE THIS HISTORICAL  
BROCHURE

*"PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL  
BLESSINGS FLOW"*

Signers of the Articles of Incorporation of  
The First Presbyterian Church of  
Astoria, Oregon

*Truman Pleasant Powers*

*C. Leinenweber*

*William H. Gray*

*July 15, 1878*



*From the Minutes of the Session, March 30, 1879*

"There are times in Christian experience when to recount the events of the past is but to gather fresh strength and courage for the future. It is with sincere gratitude that we are called upon today to record God's goodness and mercy to us as a church."

## **Charter Members**

Truman Pleasant Powers

Mary M. Powers

Henry Farnsworth

Mrs. M.C. McCray

Mary A. Gray

Miss Katie McGregor

George McLean

Elizabeth McLean

Mrs. Elizabeth McGregor

William H. Gray

Mary Leinenweber

J.F. Barrows

Diana Barrows

Mrs. Lydia Cole

Mrs. Elizabeth Buckingham

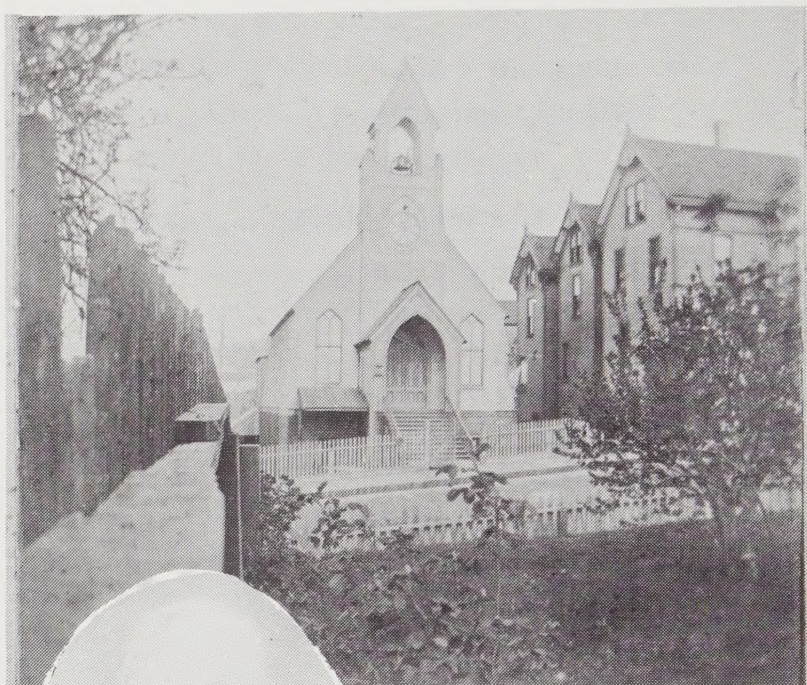
Miss Olivia Elliott

Mrs. Margaret Miller

Mrs. Christina Flavel

Mrs. Matilda Barrows

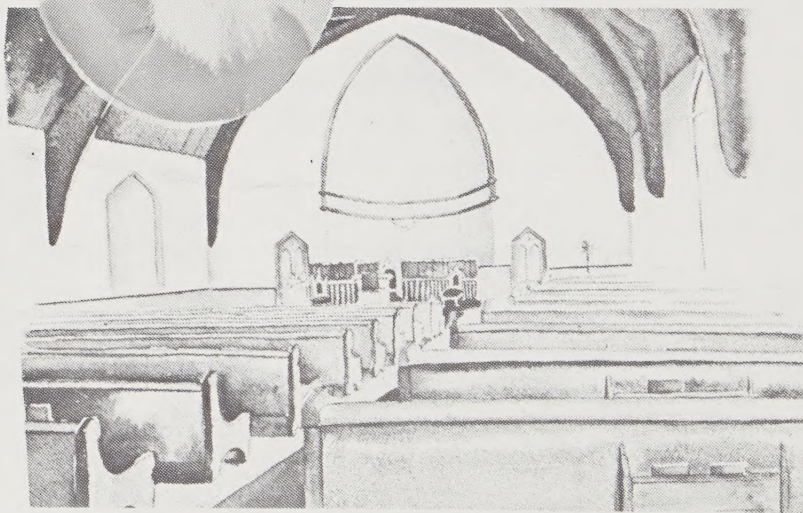
Miss Nellie Flavel



*First Church Building*

*Eleazer W. Garner*

*Sanctuary of First Church*



## First Presbyterian Church

The First Presbyterian Church of Astoria is an outgrowth of the Clatsop Plains Pioneer Presbyterian Church of Warrenton, Oregon, which is the oldest continuing Presbyterian Church west of the Rocky Mountains. The Clatsop Plains Church was organized September 19, 1846 by the Rev. Lewis Thompson at the home of William H. Gray, who came to Oregon with the Whitman-Spalding party in 1836.

Twelve members of the Clatsop Plains Church who were residents of Astoria and eight other Astorians petitioned for the organization of a Presbyterian Church in Astoria. The petition was presented to the Presbytery of Oregon and Dr. A.L. Lindsley, chairman of the Church Extension Committee responded. He came to Astoria for the first service on May 5th, 1877, held in the schoolhouse in Uppertown. Dr. Lindsley preached the sermon titled "The Church — The Pillar and Ground of Truth." The service ended with the singing of "How Firm a Foundation."

Services in the first early years were held in Van Dusen's Hall, the Congregational and the Baptist Churches. In 1881 a lot on Main St., now 9th St., was purchased for \$1,000, and in 1882 the building of the Presbyterian Church was accomplished with the dedication of Thanksgiving, rejoicing and praise celebrated on January 14, 1883. It was a neat and attractive building with carpeting and cushioned pews.

When the original church building became inadequate for the growing congregation, plans were made for the erection of a new building.

Captain George C. Flavel had left in his will the sum of \$4,000 to be used for such a purpose and his heirs presented the site at the corner of 11th St. and Grand Avenue. The building was dedicated in December of 1903 at a cost of \$19,075.

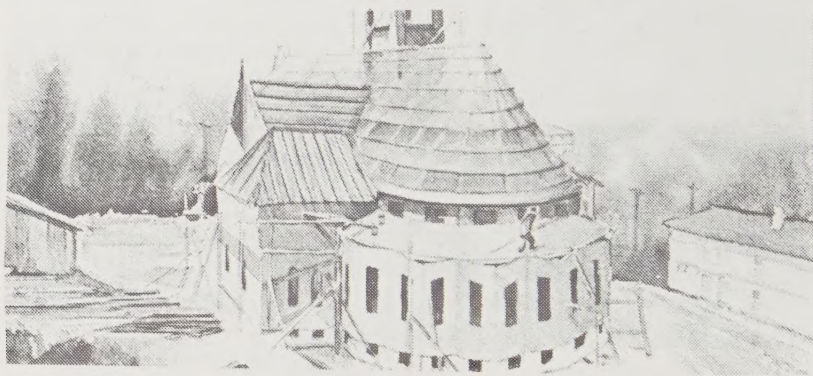
During the ministry of Paul C. McFarlin, 1952-1956, an extensive remodeling and restoration program was developed through a fund drive conducted by the Wells Co., and over \$45,000 was collected.

The fund drive enabled the church to complete the unfinished area behind the chancel. A chapel - The Dr. Marcotte Memorial

Chapel - a library-study room, church office, kitchenette, storage space and rest rooms were included in the renovation.

In 1957, the Marcotte Chapel was dedicated on the 80th anniversary of the church in memory of the Rev. Henry Marcotte, the minister during the construction period of the present First Presbyterian Church and who served as the interim pastor before the call of Rev. McFarlin.

*Present First Presbyterian Church*



*Grand St. Entrance  
to Sanctuary*



*Chancel Cross*

## Church School History

The Sunday School records as far back as 1908, list names with a familiar tie to our present church membership. Many of them recall early pioneer families such as: Gearhart, Wootton, Fulton, Gimre, Ball, McGregor, Ekstrom, Beard, Badollet, Flavel, Gilbert and Tee. During this period, it was called the Sabbath Church School, students were scholars and one teacher who taught at the high school was always listed as Professor Hussong.

March, 1923, listed the largest enrollment in the history of our church school, 260 scholars. This date falls within the time spanning the years that Mrs. Christina Flavel and the Misses Katie and Nellie Flavel took an active part in the work of the church school. Mrs. Flavel was an excellent Bible student and having travelled extensively, she told her class many interesting facts about faraway places. It was during this time the Flavel family donated lots at 11th and Harrison streets for a Sunday School Building and Nellie Flavel started the building fund with a donation of \$5,000 as they felt the basement of the church building was not adequate for the needs of the scholars of the Sabbath Church School. Miss Flavel did not live to see the new building which was completed in 1937 but she left \$12,000 in her will toward the completion of it.

Katie Flavel



Nellie Flavel organist



*see first page*



*Church Annex, Harrison Street Entrance*

Throughout the 30's and 40's, a summer Bible School was held in cooperation with other churches in the community.

Because of the fire at the Astoria High School in November of 1942, the Session voted to allow several of the high school classes to be held in the Church School building but reserved the rooms being used by the War Emergency Casualty Station organized by the Thursday club.

Through the years there were many more events of interest such as a youth conference at Lewis and Clark College in 1963, a visit from Helen McClain — our Korean missionary — in 1966 explaining the work of the church in Korea. In recent years the youth of the church school have participated in a summer backpack trip accompanied by adults active in the church school. Meetings were held on Sunday throughout the life of the church school until May of 1973, when it was decided to change it to Wednesday evening following a family potluck supper.

To summarize the 100 years of our original Sabbath School, then Sunday School and now Church School, in a few words is impossible. Many wonderful and happy events have taken place. We pray that our church school will continue its effort to mold and pattern the lives of our students after the life of our Lord. May they learn to love with your love.

Amen

## The Bell

On January 14, 1883, at 10:30 in the morning, our bell first pealed out its message, "Come to Worship." This was at the Ninth Street Church.

After the lot was purchased in 1881 and the church building erected, Truman P. Powers donated the bell which was shipped around the Horn from the Meneley Bell Works of Troy, New York. Mr. Powers had come to the Oregon country from Vermont in 1846, eventually settling in Astoria and was elected clerk of the Session of the church.

Mrs. Mary Leinenweber, daughter of Mr. Powers, told of the whole town waiting to hear the new Presbyterian Church Bell. It first rang at the dedication of the new building. Truman Powers said at that time, "I like to think that long after my tongue lies silent in the grave, this bell will be calling people to church." And we hear it every Sunday in our present church building where it calls the faithful to worship.

At a reception given the Rev. Henry Marcotte in the old church on Ninth St., Rev. Trumbull of the Baptist Church stated, "Church bells have a distinctive message: the Methodist bell rings out — free grace for all, free grace for all; the Baptist bell chimes — immersion, immersion; the Presbyterian bell in deep dignified tones, proclaims - women keep silent, women keep silent. Let's listen next time to this great bell and see if its message has not changed, for the women of this church would be hard put to keep silent!"

## The Choir

Regular attendance at choir practice proved to be the trunk of the tree but the fruit was on the branches and led to many appearances at other churches, service clubs, Grange, conventions, weddings and funeral services, states Laurence Jackson, a member of the choir of this church for forty-five years.

In the distant past, it was customary for the choir to enter from both sides while singing the processional and balconies were used for special events. When it was decided that choir robes should be worn, the fabric was purchased and distributed to choir members to be stitched at home. The gown was floor length and of a black material with a separate white surplice worn over it. Because no pattern was provided the seamstresses, each gown varied in design when completed.



*Choir, Christmas 1925, directed by H.P. Filer*

Information is lacking of the earliest years of choir history. In the 1920's, Judge J.A. Buchanan, author of our state song, "Oregon, My Oregon," sang an ardent bass in the choir. And in 1928, the Easter Cantata was repeated in Seaside with 50 voices and an 18 piece orchestra. Another notable date, May 7, 1933, the choir sang for the crew of "Old Ironsides," then anchored in the Astoria harbor. The choir received an invitation to join with Portland choirs to sing at the 179th Presbyterian General Assembly held in that city in 1967. Ten of our members joined with Portland to form a 1,000 voice choir, singing "Alleluia, Sing Hosanna," on that occasion.

## **The Church Organs**

At the first service held in the original church building at what is now Ninth and Duane Sts. on the first Sunday in November, 1883, a Mason and Hamlin Pump Organ was dedicated. The organ was a gift of the Flavels, a family active in the early life of the First Presbyterian Church. Miss Nellie Flavel was at that time, the church organist.

In 1911, the Pipe Organ was installed and dedicated on January 13th, the achieved goal of an organ fund drive started by a gift of \$500 from Narcissa White Kinney. On page 12 is the front page of the program for the organ recital given by Mr. Lucien Becker of Portland, Oregon. Mr. Becker was noted as an organist at the St. Louis World's Fair.

# RECITAL



*Dedicating the New Pipe Organ  
Presbyterian Church  
Astoria, Oregon*

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 1911

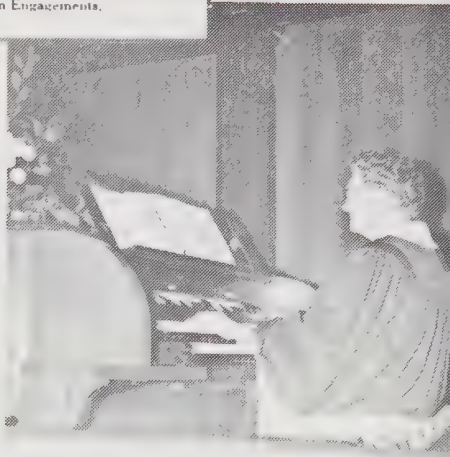
MR. LUCHEN, E. BECKER, Organist

Mr. Becker is organist of the First M. E. Church of Portland.  
He was organist at St. Louis World's Fair.

MRS. TALMA-ZETTA WILBUR, Reader

Mrs. Wilbur has been reader with the Knickerbocker and  
Dudley Buck quartettes in Lyceum Engagements.  
Now living in Astoria.

Mrs. Charles Dodge served as organist for 32 years and was honored at a fellowship coffee hour after the morning worship service following her retirement. Iva Dodge played for the church services and other events from 1933 to 1965. Her appreciation of and ability in, the expression of sacred music, was respected greatly by the congregation of the church.





*The Pipe Organ*

## **The Missionary Society**

Church records indicate two dates of organization for the Missionary Society, 1888 and 1891 but there is no doubt of the purpose for which the group was formed: "to disseminate missionary intelligence, also to encourage effort in our own church and to secure contributions for mission work." Monthly meetings were held with dues of 10 cents per meeting.

The ladies studied missionary work in various areas: Africa, South America, the Philippines. In 1900, the Missionary Society was delighted to learn that a former Astorian of Japanese descent was living in a Christian Mission School and leading a fine Christian life. Regularly the ladies filled boxes of supplies and sent them to the various mission fields and in 1917, the meetings became weekly instead of monthly. We now wonder if the change in meeting times was due to the involvement of the U.S. in World War I though there is nothing available in records to indicate this.

1929 — Quote from a letter received from Haines House in Alaska thanking the Society for sending bedspreads, "It is seldom we receive anything made of such good material and so well made. They did our hearts good for even our rambunctious youngsters won't wear them out." Haines House is a home for orphaned Indian children.

And so the Missionary Society continued actively until its absorption into the Women's Federation in 1954.

## **The Monday Club**

The Every Monday Club of the First Presbyterian Church was the name chosen by a group of young ladies of the church membership in 1895. The primary goal of this club was to be of financial assistance to the church but they helped socially as well. At first they met every Monday but soon they drew up their Constitution and By-Laws, changing the name to the Monday Club and meeting days to the first and third Mondays with Mrs. Henrietta Prael as their first president. Charter membership numbered 24 but this number increased until there were sixty.

New pews for the church was one of the first projects at a cost of \$800 with the final payment of \$125 made in 1904. To pay for the pews, dues were raised to 50 cents from 25 cents per month and other money-making projects were planned: bazaars, rummage sales, ice cream socials, apron sales, cooked food sales, flower sales, quilt shows, garden parties, vagabond baskets, jitney dinners, cook books, musicals, sale of flavoring extract, the Annual Anniversary Luncheon, and McCall magazine subscriptions which was Mrs. Prael's project.

The Monday Club worked hard aiding the church financially. Here are listed only a few of their many projects: \$200 for organ repair, choir robes, church insurance, added to the Church Building Fund, \$50 to the Easter collection yearly, two layettes annually to the Red Cross, bought dishes, spoons and communion racks, stoves for the Sunday School and basement room, and gave money to the many and varied church needs such as assessments, salaries of the church staff and \$100 annually to the YMCA in the name of the church. One of the last projects of the Club was to provide a Christian flag for the Sanctuary.

The Monday Club was the oldest church group in Astoria and perhaps one of the oldest in the state. They celebrated their sixty-fourth anniversary the month they disbanded, holding their last meeting the same month as the first meeting, February.

## **The Birthday Club**

Formerly the Ladies Aid Society which had organized in 1871, the Birthday Club reformed in 1903 with 13 charter members. Its purpose similar to that of the Monday Club, the ladies worked industriously to further the cause of the church and to provide funds for the maintenance of the church building.

Records prior to April of 1928 are non-existent but that year Birthday Club members journeyed to Ft. Stevens by stage for a picnic and in the succeeding years until December of 1937 when they discontinued the organization, they purchased calsomine to paint the manse, a carpet sweeper for the church, a mirror for the parlor and tablecloths for use in the new annex building. Occasionally through the years they provided wood to heat the church, the cost varying from \$5 to \$11 and they supplied funds for other needs of the church and its congregation. In April of 1906-1908, depending on which book of records one is reading, some of the members joined the newly organized Anniversary Club but retained their membership in the Birthday Club.

## **The Anniversary Club**

The object of this club was to promote sociability, to make welcome strangers in the church and to assist the church financially. The name, Anniversary, suggested the original plan of the members to entertain in the month of their wedding anniversaries. Charter membership numbered 8 but soon grew to 35 with meetings held in the church parlor which is now our library.

Food sales, dinners, silver teas, musical programs and rummage sales were held through the years to raise money towards the needs of the church and the manse. One of the early projects raised \$100 for the pipe organ fund and another \$100 went into paint needed for the church. In some months as many as 35 to 40 calls were made on new church members, the ill and the shut-ins. The group was always interested in the activities of the church and enjoyed fellowship with one another.

In 1927, the Anniversary Club joined with other organizations within the church in the celebration of the church's 50th anniversary and in 1934, celebrated its own 26th year with a potluck luncheon. This same year the Monday Club also celebrated an anniversary with a similar luncheon and these clubs became known as the "eatingest" clubs of the church. Both celebrations were well attended by members and friends.

For many years the members and the Sunday School children enjoyed a potluck picnic and swim party at the Klaskanine Fish Hatchery. One year the group was so large the pastor chartered a S.P.&S. bus to take the 75 persons out and back for the whole sum of \$7.50!

### Quilting Club, 1926-1966

On a December day in 1926, Mrs. Mary Lankester invited Mrs. Archibald McLean to her home to help her quilt. They decided to start a quilting club to earn money for the church. Their first of the weekly meetings were held in the Sunday School rooms. Soon other interested ladies were coming to help with this worthy project.

In the beginning the average charge was \$5 per quilt. Orders came in faster than the women could fill them and some were turned down. Requests came in from many states, even the Philippines.

From the money earned by the quilters, many items were purchased for our church: chairs for the parlor, candlesticks for the



Marcotte Chapel, a gold vase for the Sanctuary, kitchen equipment, \$50 for pews for the Chapel, a clock for the parlor and contributions toward the Easter and Christmas offerings and One Great Hour of Sharing.

Cards were sent to church members expressing condolences and congratulations and many happy times were enjoyed by the quilters at potluck luncheons and birthday parties.

This history of the Quilting Club would not be complete without mentioning the name of Mrs. Celestia Gearhart. For the many years she was secretary of this group, her great sense of humor and ability to compose poetry enhanced the enjoyment of membership.

The club disbanded in 1966, but a group of enthusiastic women gathered in the spring of 1976 to design and stitch together a Clatsop County Historical Quilt designed by Bettie Frame, for the Nation's Bicentennial Celebration. Many hours of devoted labor went into this project and it was proudly displayed at the State Fair in Salem, September of that year.

The renewing interest in the handicraft of quilting was the incentive for the small nucleus of women who now meet weekly on Mondays to quilt and enjoy a fellowship of shared and mutual labor.

## **The Twigbenders**

This was the name adopted by a group of mothers of young children, organized on January 27, 1955 as a part of the Women's Federation. This enthusiastic group held meetings monthly for fellowship and study while their children attended a nursery school under the tender loving care of the Women's Federation members. At noon the children joined the mothers to enjoy their sack lunches. Thirteen mothers, fourteen children and three baby sitters attended the first meeting.

Often the meetings opened with a special call to worship such as:

"Tis education trains the mind

Just as a twig is bent, the tree's inclined."

Alexander Pope

or:

"Train up a child in the way he should go and when  
he is old he will not depart from it."

Proverbs 22:6

Being a part of the Women's Federation, Twigbenders worked at various church functions and built a longlasting comraderie as they

assisted with coffee hours, suppers, weddings, the Men's Club dinners, flowers for the Sunday services, and decorating and furnishing the nursery room. In 1957, they bought new curtains for the parlor and music folders for the choir; at that time, half the Twigbender membership sang in the choir. The biggest project undertaken by the group raised money to carpet the sanctuary. The Twigbenders became carpetbaggers; making little carpetbags of cotton scraps, they called on church members and friends, explaining the need and asking them to buy one or more square yards of carpeting. It worked — the money was raised and the carpet laid.

On December 11, 1958, 13 members and 8 guests enjoyed the Christmas program which was the last of the Twigbenders' thirty-three meetings. They then joined the other clubs in the Circles of the new Women's Association. The mothers had enjoyed a rich experience of study and fellowship while the Women's Federation provided helpful supervision for an active group of youngsters. Were the "twigs" bent? Who can say? Twenty years later, these youngsters are scattered and doing as diverse and interesting things as any segment of the American population.

## **The Thursday Club**

The younger women of the church organized on March 8, 1929, to meet on Thursday twice monthly; socially the first time, with a work party on the second meeting to make items for the annual Church Bazaar. Dues were 10 cents, later increased to 25 cents and out of this, \$3 went to the church treasury each month. In 1930, the Thursday Club gave \$50 to the Church Building Fund.

Activities during the years included fashion shows, bridge benefits, cooking and sewing, and once a donated quilt was raffled off — an activity now frowned upon as "gambling." The group was enthusiastic and energetic, devoted to many church causes. Their efforts resulted in various improvements in the decoration of the Manse and the Church as well as more mundane but important projects such as helping to pay for the Manse roof.

During World War II, the Thursday Club members sewed for the Red Cross and organized a sub-hospital or Casualty Station for emergency treatment (in the event of a War crisis) in the Church House, with surgical supplies, cots and blackout curtains. The women rolled bandages and an obstetrical kit was purchased.

The Thursday Club continued their activities to promote the welfare of the church and to study the Mission Field until the club was absorbed into the Women's Association in January of 1959.



### **The Mariners Club For Young Married Couples**

Looking at the young couples of our church we find an active and productive group, both past and present. The Mariners Club was organized in 1947 during the pastorate of Rev. Philip Lewis. These couples performed service projects for the church such as painting, landscaping, ushering and nursery services, as well as hosting many fun and fellowship activities for adults and families. The records show the group active for almost 20 years.

The 1959 "Cargo" for the Mariners undertook the landscaping of the church grounds. A local landscape architect drew up a plan for placement and with the help of a local nurseryman, plants, trees and shrubs were selected. The plans were presented to the church members with an option to pledge toward the purchase of such plants and shrubs in lieu of donating Easter lilies. A diagram of the layout was given the church families and they could select the

place and shrub of their choice in memory of a loved one. Approximately \$356 was collected and the members of the Mariners Club completed the project, doing the planting, fertilizing, etc.

The young couples of recent years haven't changed much from those of the years past except that they now call their group the Young Couples instead of the Mariners. They are repainting, building cabinets, weeding the yard and assisting with the maintenance of the church buildings. A bi-weekly Bible study is held on Sunday evenings and once monthly, they enjoy a fun and fellowship evening. Progressive dinners, seasonal parties, potlucks and family picnics were favorite get-togethers in the past and are so in the present.

These times of work, fun and fellowship in our church will always be meaningful to the young couples and their families.

## **Women's Federation**

About 1943, the Missionary Society and the Monday, Anniversary and Thursday Clubs jointly formed a Women's Federation with the Twigbenders adding their membership in 1955. This active Women's Federation functioned through the 1950's with the clubs still organized in their original form but working together to promote their programs, each contributing to the bazaars, dinners, rummage sales and other money-making projects.

## **Women's Association**

The Federation dissolved in December of 1959 and the Women's Association was formed. The clubs disbanded and the names of their members were drawn to determine the membership in the subordinate organizations which were called Circles with Biblical names of Esther, Priscilla, Ruth and Tabitha. Thus the Women's Association functioned actively for a period of years supporting the church with deeds and money, carrying out a missionary program and sewing assignments, Bible study through Circle leadership and in other ways giving time and talents to enrich the total church program.

In the late 60's and the early 70's, the Circles gradually ceased to be and were replaced by afternoon and evening Bible study groups with the Association becoming the United Presbyterian Women. Today the women are contributing regularly to the mission goal of the United Presbyterian Church as well as actively involved in

assisting to maintain and beautify our church property. Three representatives have travelled to the triennial meeting of the United Presbyterian Women at the University of Indiana in Purdue.

During the lifetime of this church, the enthusiasm with which the women have tackled the tasks they have chosen to do has risen to noble heights at times; the abiding purpose throughout the years has been to have a continuing and vital service organization.

## **The Men's Club**

Early church records tell us that an organization called the Men's League was formed in March, 1906, by fourteen young men. It was a rigidly structured group with a constitution, by-laws, officers, committees, dues of 25 cents a month, membership cards, and the like. Activities were divided among study meetings (after church), business meetings and social activities. Social activities - interesting and varied - included poetry reading, musical socials, riverboat picnics, crawfish parties, lectures, oyster feeds and Hallowe'en parties. We can conclude that in the days before radio and television, movies, modern libraries, service clubs, and so on - the church was a focal point of not only worship, but social and intellectual interests.

Records of March, 1924, indicate a "Men's Club" was formed and active in church affairs. Dues were one dollar per year and the group was concerned with improving church attendance, Bible study, boys' work assistance, canvass for finances and public welfare. We now know that many of these functions have been assumed by other organizations within the church and by other groups and agencies in the community. Minutes of March, 1925, include an item that a banquet and entertainment function was held at the Orangemen's Building with 120 or more in attendance. An attendance of 120 or more at a Men's Club function is difficult to imagine by today's standards.

Records of the 1940's, 50's and 60's, picture an active Men's Club with good attendance, varied programs, and dinners served by the women's groups of the church.

The Men's Club of today is a non-structured organization with meals furnished by members, programs but no offices, dues or minutes. In today's complex, highly organized society, it is very difficult to get a group going. If you have something very unique to offer, you have a better chance. Have Men's Clubs become an anachronism? Probably. Will they exist in the future? We hope so.

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MONDAY JUNE 6th.

Afternoon 2:30 to 4 P. M.

PROGRAM OF WOMENS CLUBS

Chairman, Mrs. C. R. Higgins

THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY

Mrs. C. A. Gearhart

Mrs. A. D. Garner

THE MONDAY CLUB

Mrs. Herman Prael

THE ANNIVERSARY CLUB

Mrs. H. G. Wirtz

Mrs. T. L. Ball

THE BIRTHDAY CLUB

Mrs. C. Leinenweber

MUSICAL PROGRAM DURING MEETING

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EVENING 8 P. M.

Chairman, Judge James A. Eakin

Hymn 117 .....  
Prayer .....  
Music ..... by old Choir  
Program and Address ..... "Past, Present and Future"....  
.....Dr. W. S. Gilbert of Portland and G. H. Himes of  
Oregon Historical Society.

TUESDAY EVENING, JUNE 7th.

6:30 Orange Hall

Family Supper, General Invitation.

Chairman, A. S. Robinson

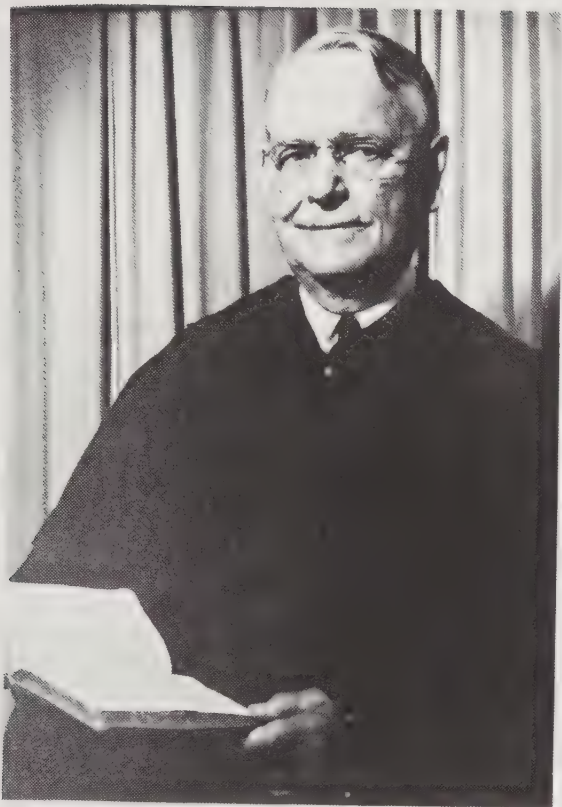
COMMUNITY SINGING

Principal Speaker, Dr. W. H. Nugent of Portland.

First Presbyterian Church, Astoria, Oregon, 1927.

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50th Anniversary Program



### **Eightieth Anniversary**

Following the worship service on May 6, 1957, the 80th anniversary of our church was celebrated with the dedication of the Henry Marcotte Chapel.

The Rev. Henry Marcotte was the beloved pastor of the church during the time the present building was built and he worked tirelessly toward the completion of the church.

His wife, Mrs. Henry Marcotte, was honored at the reception following the dedication. Among the memorial furnishings in the panelled chapel is an 1870 picture Bible presented by Mrs. Maude Bartlett; brass candlesticks, a gift of the Quilting Club, and an organ from the Monday Club.

## PASTORS

E.N. Condit	1877-1879
J.V. Milligan	1879-1884
E.W. Garner	1884-1888
W.A. Hutchinson	1889
G.M. Campbell	1889-1891
R.B. Dilworth	1891-1894
Robert Lidell	1894-1896
Henry Marcotte	1896-1904
Herbert H. Brown	1904-1905
W.H. Layson	1905
William S. Gilbert	1906-1924
David James Ferguson	1924-1937
Harrison F. Truscott	1938-1945
Philip B. Lewis	1946-1950
Henry Marcotte, Interim Pastor Emeritus	1950-1952
Paul C. McFarlin	1952-1956
Jack L. Walden	1956-1962
Lee E. Knoll	1963-1968
James V. McGoodwin	1968-1970
John L. Goodenberger	1970-

## **Some Former Pastors**

### **ELEAZER W. GARNER**

During the ministry of Dr. Garner, 1884-1888, a marked growth in the spiritual life of the First Presbyterian Church as well as growth in numbers of members was shown. During this time, the church bell was ordered from the Meneley Bell Works of Troy, New York and brought to Astoria.

In Dr. Garner's time as pastor, several families of prominence in the development of Northwest Oregon united with the First Presbyterian Church. These were: Gearharts, Powells, Badollets, Hobsons, Fultons, Crosbys, Bowlsbys, Shermans, Parkers and McKears.

Dr. Garner served for six years as minister but after resigning continued to make Astoria his home and was a great help in the work of the church.

**(See picture on page showing original church)**

### **WILLIAM S. GILBERT, 1906-1924**

In 1905, the Church extended a call to the Rev. Wm. S. Gilbert of Calvary Church, Portland, Oregon. Mr. Gilbert preached a service on Christmas Sunday and accepting the call, began a ministry of nineteen and a half years.

He was a good preacher and an energetic leader in the church and in civic affairs. He had served as a chaplain in the Army during the Spanish American War and was called again in 1917 for the First World War. He was granted a leave of absence and after his return from the service, resumed his duties as pastor of First Presbyterian Church.

During his pastorate, the pipe organ was purchased, installed and dedicated during the years of 1910-11, and the Manse was built in 1910, then located across 11th St. from the main Church building.

In 1922, Astoria experienced a great and destructive fire. Dr. Gilbert was appointed chairman of the committee of ten persons to restore order out of chaos and under his tireless directing, things began to function normally. Many people may remember his motto: "SMILE, HAVE FAITH, REBUILD." He resigned in 1924 to become Secretary of the Executive Offices in Portland. Under his ministry, this church became one of the leading churches of the Portland Presbytery.

# The Week, January 18-25, 1920

## TODAY:

MORNING WORSHIP: 11:00 A. M.

Sermon by J. W. Palmer, Secretary Y. M. C. A. Theme "The Open Door."

### MUSIC

Morning Anthem—"One Sweetly Solemn Thought"—Ambrose.

EVENING WORSHIP: 7:30 P. M.

Sermon by Rev. Joseph Esterborg, Theme, "America, in the Purpose of God."

### MUSIC

Evening Anthem—"The Sabbath Dawns with Welcome Rest"—Franz Alet

Christian Endeavor, 6:30 in Church Parlor.

Subject, "My Favorite Psalm and Why."

## TUESDAY:

Jan. 20th. Regular meeting of the Woman's Missionary Society of Portland Presbytery, First Church, Portland.

The Missionary society will meet at 4 P. M. Home of Mrs. T. Wootton 544 8th St. at 2:30 P. M. Mrs. J. A. Eakin and Mrs. B. S. Elofson, Program Mrs. C. R. Higgins Devotional. All ladies of the church and congregation cordially invited.

## WEDNESDAY—Prayer Meeting 7:30

Subject, "Stewardship."

## FRIDAY:

Social Postponed one week on account of Band concert at Methodist Church. The social will be held Friday the 30th.

The following united with the Church last Sabbath:  
Benefiel, 727 Grand; Judge J. Q. A. Bowlby, 55  
Mrs. J. A. Buchanan, 15th and Franklin; Lambe  
Exchange; Mrs. C. M. Cole, 749 Grand; Doroth  
garet E. Curry, 369 Grand; Fredrick H. De Vor  
Joseph Esterborg, 257 Commercial; Mrs. Eliz. M.  
H. Goodenough, 703 7th; Mr. and Mrs. J. Hansen,  
Mrs. Wm. Mannix, Lewis & Clark; Miss Pearl  
and Mrs. C. A. Murphey, 321-9th; Miss Sarah Pau  
Schurman, 58 St.; Miss Florence Sherman, 424 J  
1225 Taylor; Miss Barbara Webster, 1225 Taylo  
mond; Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Wootton, 611 Jerome.

Our next Communion will be on Easter Day. Apri  
ceive at least fifty members at that Communion. Also  
bring their infant children for baptism.

*Worship Bulletin During  
Rev. Gilbert's Ministry.*

*Rev. Wm. S. Gilbert*



# DAVID JAMES FERGUSON

During Dr. Ferguson's ministry, 1924 to 1937, the Church House was built and dedicated, the Sunday School and the Young People's Christian Endeavor Society flourished.



## REGULAR SERVICE

### Sunday

Sunday School ..10:00  
Morning Service 11:00  
Senior C. E. .... 6:30  
Evening Service 7:30

### Wednesday

Mid-Week Service  
..... 7:30

### Monthly

Elders meet at 7:00  
First Wed. in month  
Trustees meet second  
Wednesday in month

.. First ..

## Presbyterian Church

DAVID JAMES FERGUSON, Pastor  
ASTORIA, OREGON

Church and Manse Eleventh and Grand. Telephone  
Manse 441; Church 1180

E. J. NYMAN, Clerk of Session  
MRS. H. F. PRAEL, Treasurer

### THE FAITH OF OUR CHURCH:

We believe in the Divine  
Character and Mission of  
Christ; that He is the Savior  
of man in His sinfulness;  
that all accepting and  
believing this Christ as their  
Lord, Truth and Life are fully  
incorporated to the name and hope  
of the Christian.

### You Are Invited

To Attend Our Ser-  
vices.  
To Share Our Fellow-  
ship.  
To Help In Our Wor-  
ship. To Unite With Our  
Church.  
Which Entails To Surren-  
der Humanity In  
Christ's Name.



*Rev. John L. Goodenberger*

## **Our Church Today - 1977**

### **Pastor's Report**

Our church at the 100th anniversary mark finds itself alive and working in many ways to carry out the responsibilities laid upon it by our Founder, Jesus Christ.

Fulfilling the charge to "go into all the world," the church has been increasing its giving to the national, synod, and presbytery benevolence program. Through the national program we are involved in mission work in more than 40 countries. Special offerings such as the One Great Hour of Sharing and projects through the Women's Association are well supported at the present.

Locally, we join with other churches in several out-reach programs. We provide space for a Food Bank Program plus the Golden Age Fellowship.

Our Church School presently meets on Wednesday evenings for supper and classes. While the number of children related to the church family is presently small, we have a dedicated staff of teachers eager to serve. Hopefully, we will be able to enlarge the number we serve.

Two women's Study groups and the Young Couples Group are involved in Bible study in addition to the Church School. A Men's Club, Women's Organization, and Senior High Fellowship provide a variety of study, service, and fellowship opportunities. An adult choir provides special music each week for 9 months of the year, and a quilters club meets weekly to learn this old skill.

Worship Services every Sunday morning provide the heart of our life as a church. Our aim is to nourish and equip our members for service in the community and world in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Our Centennial project, gifts of money, time, and talents for the Chinese Presbyterian Church in Portland, is a way of saying "thank you" to those persons and groups who gave time, money, and talents 100 years ago to organize our church. We received a goodly heritage. We would like to pass it on to a church that is just getting started.

### **Special Mission Project Celebrating Our 100th Anniversary**

In the midst of the revelry in celebration of our anniversary, we must never forget that our embryonic body was nurtured by other supportive Christians who aided in our early growth. In a spirit of eternal gratitude for this help at our beginnings, some felt the need to pass on to another church the same sort of aid we had received. From this came the Mission Project Subcommittee and the decision we would assist the Chinese Presbyterian Church of Portland.

This is a church which grew from the first Chinese congregation gathered together by the Rev. and Mrs. Holt some 70 years ago in Portland. The Chinese population in Portland at that time was of the laboring class and in desperate need of someone who could improve their lot. The Holts began with worship services and classes in English and the practical arts. Many years have gone by.

For a recent period of 15 years, the Chinese united with two other congregations but have now decided they can best serve their ethnic group by forming their own church so are now in another new beginning. They have a church building but their greatest asset is the young and eager members working to establish a strong Christian body which will minister to the Chinese population of Portland.

We hope to provide the means for many items needed in their church. Uppermost is a landscaping project for their church

grounds. From this and other activities, we hope to establish a permanent relationship of mutual support - Presbyterians working together to spread the ministry of Christian love and fellowship.

## **A Few More Memories**

The first new member to join the church after the organization date of May 5, 1877, was William McGregor, 18 years old and the son of a charter member, Mrs. Elizabeth McGregor.

Thomas Frederick, infant son of charter members, Mr. and Mrs. Christian Leinenweber, was the first child baptized in the newly formed church.

Truman Pleasant Powers, charter member of our church, was one of the first two ruling elders ordained on the Pacific Coast. The other was Alva Condit, a member of our parent church, the Clatsop Plains Pioneer Presbyterian Church. Mr. Powers made a trip East to his home state of Vermont and brought back considerable furniture, amongst which was a dining room table. The table was used not only by the Powers' family but by the Leinenwebers, who gave it to the church. The table is over 100 years old and still here in the church.

Mr. Powers, as well as being one of the first ruling elders on the Pacific Coast, was our first Clerk of Session. In those times, these positions held more respect than now and he was known by the familiar title of "Father Powers."

The following is taken from the minutes of the congregational records of the meeting held May 24, 1904, to hear the final report of the Building Committee (of the present church) of which William Ross was chairman. The report contains this tribute to an honest workman: "We were fortunate indeed in our contractor, Mr. Eric Gustafson, whose willing assistance and cooperation was a source of great pleasure and comfort to the committee in helping to overcome the many difficulties in the plans and specifications and in avoiding the incurring of the extras in his favor." He truly acted squarely with the committee as though his rule was the Golden Rule "Whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, do ye also unto them."

The total cost of the present church building was \$19,075.44. Now, seventy-three years later, we would be fortunate to construct a similar building for ten times that amount.

In Mr. Emil Nyman's writings is an interesting remark about the Flavel family, giving us insight to the character of these people so active in the early life of our church. He wrote, "Wealth was becoming to them, their gifts were made with Christian modesty without ostentation. Indeed they preferred that they be not mentioned. They were not disobedient to the Heavenly Vision."



Mr. Nyman sometimes lived adventurously in his work for the church. In 1936, he attended the meeting of the General Assembly with two other representatives of the Portland Presbytery at Syracuse, New York. Their reservations at the Onandaga Hotel were not held for them and they were assigned to another, the St. Cloud, which they were to learn "in its hey-day had been **the hotel**. It still had an air of faded grandeur."

In pioneer times, observance of the Sabbath was more serious than it now is and Henry Thompson, son of the pastor of the Clatsop Plains Church - our parent church - was severely scolded for whistling on the Sabbath, that being considered a sin then.

Our first church building built on the corner of 9th and Duane Sts. was sold to the A.O.U.W. Lodge in 1902 and destroyed by the great Astoria fire in 1922.

Our first Communion Service was two silver plates - still in use - and a silver urn and goblet, which was passed from person to

person, each taking a sip. It was used until 1896, when the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor gave the church an individual cup service used until 1961. At that time, Mrs. H.K. Zimmerman presented a silver Communion Service in memory of her husband, the late Judge Howard Zimmerman who had served as elder, church school superintendent and teacher.

During the pastorate of the Rev. Wm. Gilbert, Mrs. A.D. Garner taught a class of 40 to 45 young ladies known as the Tuckabchee Club. These young ladies presented the church with a communion table and hymn board. Dr. Gilbert taught a class known as the Young Men's League. Many happy social gatherings were held between these two clubs and some marriages resulted, prompting the young men to call the ladies, the "Tuck-a-Bachelor" club.

In the 1920's, the church was a more important part of the family than it now is and attendance was more regular, taking precedence over other social activities. Church bulletins of April 23, 1922 announce that "56 persons united with the Church on Easter Sabbath," and on April 8, 1928, 92 new members were introduced.

Kermit Gimre has an interesting memory of his Sabbath School class of 10 to 12 boys in the early teen age bracket. He recalls climbing up several, three or four, ladders to a room in the bell tower of the church. The lads and their teacher, Emil Nyman, enjoyed being able to listen and watch the bells being tolled for the 11 a.m. worship service.

Noticed in old Church School records: Mrs. Harley Slusher, now chairman of the Centennial Banner Committee, gave an American flag to the Church School in July of 1941.

The baptismal fount was given to our church by Mr. and Mrs. A.W. Norblad in 1951.

It is with regret that the writer closes these pages of memories with wishes for uncounted more to record all the known anecdotes of our history, but alas, it is time to end the book.



## **Centennial Activities During The Year 1976-1977**

**Jan. 1976 - July 1976** - Clatsop County historical quilt made for the Bicentennial, displayed at the Oregon State Fair, in September.

**May 5, 1976** - Women's Association Tea & Quilt Display

**August 8, 1976** - Outdoor worship service and salmon barbecue

**October 10, 1976** - Ice cream social

**December 15, 1976** - Old fashioned Christmas pageant

**March 26, 1977** - Potluck dinner with members of Portland Chinese church as guests.

**April 30, 1977** - Centennial banquet and program

**May 1, 1977** - Old Fashioned Parade & Centennial Worship Service, Reception Tea.

## **In Appreciation**

With grateful appreciation to the following who have submitted material for this brochure from research of historical church records or contributed in other areas to make possible this publication, recording in perpetuity, the history of the First Presbyterian Church of Astoria, Oregon:

Frances Dietrichs

Virginia Hendrickson

Peggy Enlund

Edythe Lee

Elsie Lee

Lillian Leinenweber

Penny Mackey

Kermit Gimre

Bettie Frame

Photographers:

Marjorie Halderman

Bessie Brandenburg

Rod Miller

Dorothy Scott

Laurence Jackson

Peg Christie

John Goodenberger

Jean McKinney

May Miller

Eilene Moore and Richard Magathan

With special recognition of the late Emil Nyman, Clerk of the Session and Church School Superintendent - these being only two of the many positions he was active in - for the detailed accounting of church events over the years, thereby making possible much of the information contained herein.

## Church Centennial Committees

Elma Rae Marxen	Convenor:
Rev. John Goodenberger	Pastor:
Frances Dietrichs	Research & Booklet:
Virginia Hendrickson	
Marjorie Halderman	
Peggy Enlund	
Laurence Jackson	
Kay Cruzan	
William Larson, Sr.	
Kermit Gimre	Publicity:
Peggy Enlund	Program:
Patricia Barnum	Dinner:
Ivern Thompson	
Ann Fearey	
Marian Swanson	
Florence Oja	Centennial Tea:
Ardis Steinmann	Hospitality:
Helen King	Parade:
Bettie Frame	
Julia Slusher	Banner:
Peggy Enlund	
Bettie Frame	
Nancy Magathan	
Shirley Landwehr	Mission Project:
Peggy Goodenberger	
Jean McKinney	

## Membership Roll 1977

ABRAHAMSEN, Arne and Inga	CRUZAN, Kenton and Kay Cheryl
ALM, Emma (Mrs. Robt.)	DAWSON, Mildred (Mrs. S.)
ASH, Maud (Mrs. Clarence)	DAY, Gurney and Louise
BAKER, Miss Edith	DIETRICHs, Walter and Frances
BAKER, Helen (Mrs. Roy)	DYER, Genevieve (Mrs. Jos.)
BARNUM, Fred and Patricia Gary, John	ELDER, Patricia (Mrs. Richard)
BARRETT, Dortha	ENLUND, David and Peggy
BORDERS, James and Irene	FEAREY, Edmund, Jr. and Ann
BOWERS, Fred and Helen	FLAVEL, Florence (Mrs. Harry)
BRANDENBURG, Alvin and Bessie	FORTNER, Richard and Edna BRUNK, Sandra
BRANDENBURG, Mary Beth	FRAME, Elmo and Bettie
BROOKS, Edna (Mrs. Charles)	GIBSON, Theodora (Mrs. Charles)
BUSH, Miss Candace	GIMRE, Kermit and Lorraine Jon, Kathy, Peter
CAHILL, Alice (Mrs. M.J.)	GOODENBERGER, Peggy (Mrs. John) Susan, Mark, John E.
CARRUTHERS, Maurine (Mrs. R. T.)	GRANT, Jeffrey and Wendy PARISH, Katherine, Craig, Suzanne
CHISHOLM, Leona (Mrs. Roy)	GRIMBERG, Albert and Emily
CHRISTIE, John and Peg Catherine, Peter, J. Pierce	GRIMBERG, Ruth (Mrs. Arthur)
COE, Morgan and Louise	GRIPPIN, Theodore and Madalyn
COTE, Mary (Mrs. Larry)	HACKER, Herbert and Henriett
COX, Anthony	
CRUZAN, Herschel and Lois	

HALDERMAN, Barbara (Mrs. Frank)	KURATLI, Ruben and Dorothy
HALDERMAN, Miss Marjorie	LANDWEHR, Robert L. and Gayle
HANKINS, John and Diane	LANDWEHR, Shirley (Mrs. Robt.)
HENDRICKSON, Virginia (Mrs. M.)	LANDWEHR, William
HENDRICKSON, Inga (Mrs. Ralph)	LaPAY, Frances (Mrs. Frank)
HENDRICKSON, Steven	LARSON, Al A. and Mildred
HENSLEY, Paul and Colleen	LARSON, Steven
HIATT, Bobby and Joyce Steven, Michael	LARSON, William H. and Inga
HILL, Lesa (Mrs. James)	LAYTON, Dale and Hilda
HILL, Royce and Lois Julie, Lori	LEE, Elsie (Mrs. Clyde)
HOWARTH, James and Lorraine	LEE, Richard and Margaret
HOWELL, Herbert	LEE, Richard and Margaret
JACKSON, Laurence and Ivy	LEE, Edyth (Mrs. Samuel)
JARVIS, Ida Mae (Mrs. J.W.)	LEINENWEBER, Lillian (Mrs. Henry)
JENSEN, John F. and Marilyn	LEINWEBER, Susan (Mrs. Gerald)
JENSEN, Esther (Mrs. Reuben)	LIN, Siu-mei (Mrs. Yihsiung R)
JOHANSEN, Ray	LINEHAN, Dr. Charles and Alene Allan, Lauren
KALLER, Joy (Mrs. William)	LINK, Gladys (Mrs. Ellis)
KILLION, William and Genevieve	LOOMIS, Harriette (Mrs. L.W.)
KING, William R. and Helen	LORENTZEN, Sherry (Mrs. Gary)
KING, Rick	MARXEN, William and Elma Rae Rae Lynn, Nancy, Sandra
KOSKELA, Mary (Mrs. Dennis)	MATTHEWS, Selma (Mrs. Eugene)

MILLER,  
May (Mrs. Ira S.)

MILLER,  
Dr. Rodney and Donna

MOORE,  
Arthur and Phyllis

MOORE,  
Colin

McCOY,  
Ethel (Mrs. John)

McKINNEY,  
Dr. Curtis and Jean  
Curt, Dana, Margare

McCLEAN,  
George T.

McMANAMY,  
Cheryl (Mrs. Robt.)

NANCE,  
Melba

NYMAN,  
Lempi (Mrs. Emil)

OJA,  
Florence (Mrs. John)

OJA,  
Mary (Mrs. Robt.)

PETERSON,  
John and Celeste

PRICE  
John and Juanita  
Marcella

PRUZYNSKI,  
James A. and Sandra

RAFFERTY,  
Dr. Frank W. and Helen

RANKIN,  
Miss Ruth

REIMANN,  
Paul and Lola

REITH,  
Floyd, Jr. and Laura

RONES,  
Dr. Harvey and Alta

SANDOZ,  
Tom F. and Jean

SCHULBACH,  
August and Caroline

SCOGGINS,  
Thomas V. and Joan

SCOTT,  
Robert and Dorothy

SEEBORG,  
Tena (Mrs. Steven)

SHAFFER,  
Miss Janet

SIEGMUND,  
Eric

SIMPSON,  
Miss Susan

SLUSHER,  
Julie (Mrs. Harley)

SMITH,  
Lewis W. and Charlotte

SNELL,  
Elizabeth (Mrs. J.D.)

STANGLAND,  
Arthur G.

STEINMANN,  
Dr. Leroy and Ardis  
Daryle, Sharon, Robert

STEVENS,  
Milford and Delpha  
Brad, Mary

STEVENS,  
Clifford

SWANSON,  
Arnold and Marion  
Becky

TAFT,  
George L. and Margaret

THIEL,  
Dan

THOMPSON,  
Ivern (Mrs. Peter)

THOMPSON,  
Minnie (Mrs. J.H.)

TOWLER,  
Emmett

TOWLER,  
John

TUCKER,  
Mabel (Mrs. J.L.)

ULMER,  
*Susan (Mrs. Edward)*

VAN,  
*Miss Sadie*

WEAVER,  
*Miss Mary*

WEBB,  
*Donald and Joan*

WEST,  
*Capt. Martin and Patricia*

WILLIAMS,  
*Esther (Mrs.)*

WILLSIE,  
*Miss Isabel*

WOOD,  
*Wayne and Anna Mae  
Cindy Lu*

WOOTON,  
*Miss Dorothy E.*

WOOTON,  
*Katherine (Mrs. W.B.)*

ZATTERLOW,  
*Helene (Mrs. O.)*

ZIMMERMAN,  
*Ellen (Mrs. Howard)*

## **Church Staff And Officers**

### **1977**

**PASTOR**

*John Goodenberger*

**SECRETARY**

*Vera Spain*

**ORGANIST**

*Elouise Nortell*

**CHOIR DIRECTOR**

*Judy Flickinger*

**CUSTODIAN**

*Louise Bradley*

**TREASURER**

*William H. Larson*

**CLERK OF SESSION**

*Dorothy Scott*

**CHAIRMAN OF TRUSTEES**

*Walt Dietrichs*

**CHAIRMAN OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

*Tom Scoggins*

**CHAIRMAN OF STEWARDSHIP**

*Richard Fortner*

**CHAIRMAN OF WORSHIP AND EVANGELISM**

*Helen King*

**CHAIRMAN OF DEACONS**

*Lorraine Gimre*

**CHAIRMAN OF WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION**

*Peggy Goodenberger and Virginia Hendrickson*

Notes . . .



